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No. 2 Men's Tennis Falls In NCAA Semifinals To No. 1 Saint Leo, 5-2



Posted: May 20, 2016

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DENVER, Colo. - The No. 2-ranked Armstrong State University men's tennis team saw its season end in the NCAA Division II Semifinals with a 5-2 loss to top-ranked Saint Leo University on Friday afternoon at the Regency Athletic Complex in Denver, Colo.

The Pirates (26-3) could not exact revenge on the only DII team that handed them a loss this season - Saint Leo (27-1) won two of three doubles points and then three singles points to advance to the national championship match on Saturday against Hawaii Pacific. It was also the third straight year that Armstrong State has fallen in the semifinals to the No. 1-ranked team in the nation, after losing to Hawaii Pacific in 2015 and West Florida in 2014.

Armstrong State won a quick doubles point to take a 1-0 lead as No. 12-ranked **Pablo Gor Costales** and **Ignacio Hernandez** beat No. 20-ranked Jaime Bueno and Egor Panyushkin, 8-1, at No. 1 doubles. The Pirates were on serve in the other two doubles matches but Saint Leo got a late break at No. 1 doubles to lift top-ranked Alberto Barroso-Campos and Alex Thieler to an 8-6 win over No. 10-ranked **Jan Porteset** and **Alberto Caceres Casas**. Francisco Aparicio and Oskar Nurmio also won,

8-6, at No. 3 doubles over the Pirates' Luca Cerin and Marek Pesicka.

The Pirates drew even at 2-2 as Porteset defeated Guillaume Vanelven, 6-4, 6-4, at No. 5 singles, but the Lions then won three to clinch the match. No. 15-ranked Theiler beat No. 21-ranked Lucak, 6-1, 6-4, at No. 2 singles, then No. 4-ranked Barroso-Campos downed No. 5-ranked Gor, 6-3, 6-2. No. 19-ranked Panyushkin clinched the match with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 win over Cerin at No. 3 singles.

The Pirates lose three seniors - Gor, Lucak and Marek Pesicka - off of this season's squad that has made five consecutive trips to the NCAA Semifinals. Armstrong State returns four players for 2017.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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